

## AC Sharks Info Night and Parents' Meeting Summary

### **Two Sharks Info Nights were held as follows:**

Wednesday, 2/19/2025 @ 6:30 PM - Vince Reale, Joe Rock, and Ken Cleveland were present from the Sharks BOD, Greg Ball was present representing the AC Skate Zone, and there were 22 parents in attendance.

Thursday, 2/20/2025 @ 6:30 PM - Vince Reale, Josh Mander, and Melissa Vola were present from the Board. Sam and Greg were present from the Rink, Jim Dittus was present as a coach, and there were 21 parents in attendance.

Total parents attending 48.

The following is a summary of the topics, questions, and discussions from both meetings.

### **Rink Updates**

- Sam stated that the rink is not closing in the foreseeable future and any rumors suggesting otherwise are false.
- Sam and Greg said skate sharpening is available daily after 5 PM.
- Additional infrastructure improvements have been requested
- A parent asked to use the gym. Sam said the Gym is available for use with a signed waiver from the city.
- Additional programs offered by the rink are listed below under skills, clinics, and training.

### **Communication**

- Parents were asked if they received the most recent informational email from the Sharks. 3 parents did not receive it and their information will be updated in the database.
- Parents are encouraged to utilize the website and social media for updates on skills clinics, events, and team news. Parents are also encouraged to contact board members and/or coaches if they have questions. Parents are happy with the increase of communication.
- One parent requested that the Sharks let everyone know when clinics were taking place like the USA/Finland clinic and any others like MJ2 and/or goalie clinics. They stated that it is important for the parents to know what is being offered at our rink so that they don't end up going to another rink when the same thing is in AC. It was also requested that if any summer camps/clinics are happening that the rink let the Sharks Board know and the Sharks Board let the parents know ASAP.

### **Sharks Hockey Programs**

- Tuition for 2025-2026 travel teams will remain the same, except for Midgets due to ref cost increasing. Those teams who want to play in EJ will pay an additional \$300, at the team's discretion.
- The following upcoming events were reviewed including dates and how to register: Pre Skate clinics, tryouts, House Scholastic Evaluations. Pre Skate clinics are free compliments of the Skate Zone. All dates, times and registration information is available at [www.acsharks.com](http://www.acsharks.com) **If anyone is having a problem with online registration please email [atlanticcitysharksyouthicehockey@aol.com](mailto:atlanticcitysharksyouthicehockey@aol.com)**

- Next season, Sharks players will be offered 2 free clinics per month in addition to normal practice.
- All players of any level in 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to participate in the House Scholastic Leagues this spring.
- Concerns were raised about the prior year's scholastic house leagues not being well organized and that new kids often sat on the bench while the travel kids dominated playing time. The parents were assured that it would be different this year and that coaches would be instructed to play the new players at least equally and worry more about fun and development than winning.
- Coach Dittus expressed concerns about how we anticipate getting kids who left back. Offered to make calls to recruit them. It was shared that we (coaches and board) cannot do that but parents can on their own. Coaches may not recruit players from other teams until districts are complete for 8u-12u and nationals are complete for 14u-18u.
- It was stressed to the parents that they and their children are the best recruitment tools the Sharks have for bringing in new players and that new players are welcome. A referral program was proposed and will be taken to the Sharks Board for approval.
- Some parents expressed the importance of ball hockey as a target market for the Sharks. Concerns around the largest ball hockey programs being hesitant to promote ice hockey. Cooperation and better relations need to be developed for a partnership to exist.
- 2 parents of potential new players (8u & 10u) who have not played ice hockey previously asked about how to get started and were referred to learn to skate and Hockey 101. They were encouraged to sign up for the scholastic house league and if they are interested in travel to come to tryouts. It was explained that travel tryout dates are set by the district under USA Hockey and that their players would have 6 months to develop between tryouts and the travel season. The Shark's desire to have younger players get involved was emphasized and the new parents were told that their involvement would also be welcomed.

### **Skills, Clinics & Training**

- Learn to Skate & Hockey 101 programs are available. Learn to Skate is every Friday at 5:10 pm. Hockey 101 is Friday at 6:20 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am.
- It is recommended that players who are very new to the ice complete Learn to Skate and participate in Hockey 101.
- Additional skills clinics will be made available for players and communicated to parents.
- Sharks players will be offered 2 free clinics per month in addition to normal practice.
- Some parents expressed concerns about too many players on the ice during stick time—this is expected to improve as the season progresses.